



**LAND AND PEOPLES**  
RELATIONSHIP  
MODEL

info@respectcareshare.ca  
www.respectcareshare.ca  
Kwanlin (Whitehorse, YT)

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## **SHO THAN K'E HO CHI DOK MENTORSHIP PROGRAM - COURSE OVERVIEW**

*Water Creates - The Land Teaches - We Listen*

### **Course Contacts**

**Sydney Kuppenbender (Program Manager)** - For questions related to the course content, assignments, accessibility needs, attendance, or if you are unsure who to contact - [info@respectcareshare.ca](mailto:info@respectcareshare.ca)

**Elder Copper Joe Jack (Course Instructor)** - Please email Sydney at [info@respectcareshare.ca](mailto:info@respectcareshare.ca) and they will get in touch with Copper on your behalf.

**Wren Nicolardi (Program Director)** - For questions regarding code of conduct concerns OR ACTIVE registration, payments, refunds, etc.- [wren@riverstoridges.org](mailto:wren@riverstoridges.org)

The bottom of the page features several thick, flowing blue lines that curve across the width of the document, creating a sense of movement and water.



## A. Course Summary

Grounded in the principles of the [Land and Peoples Relationship Model](#), Elder Copper Joe Jack will guide participants through a 5-month program on building respectful, caring, and collaborative sustainability solutions.

*An optional Summer 2026 land-based session in Kwanlin (Whitehorse, Yukon) will open for applications in Winter 2026.*

### Virtual Session Details

**Course times** Wednesday (alternating) from 5:00 - 7:00 pm Yukon Time\*

*\*Daylight savings time is March 8, 2026 - Yukon does not observe daylight savings time, so be sure to adapt your calendar to the time change!*

#### Course dates

- Jan. 14 & 28
- Feb. 11 & 25
- Mar. 11 & 25
- Apr. 8 & 22
- May. 6 & 20
- *Bonus (optional) sessions: March 4, May 13*

#### Session link

<https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/93490731365?pwd=h9eLLXvXjrlHBDYz9C0ajZlKSc9Lam.1>

Password: will be shared via email prior to first session

### Course Completion Requirements

In the spirit of reciprocity, and to deepen the impact of the course, participants will commit to:

- Arriving at all sessions prepared
  - You have reviewed all pre-session content
  - You have completed previous session reflection
- Completing session reflections in a timely manner



- Reflections are due after every class, before the next session (e.g. session reflections for January 14 are due January 27)
  - Graded as Pass/Fail
- Notifying the program manager ([info@respectcareshare.ca](mailto:info@respectcareshare.ca)) of any absences, foreseen or unforeseen.
- Generating a short community impact project plan (Due May 31, 2026).
  - This will involve individual participants designing a project, either grounded in reality or theoretical, that uses the model as the core decision-making tool, and addresses at least one of three Sustainable Development Goals 13, 14, 15.
  - Ideally, this report should be written for an audience of your peers/ supervisor(s)/coworkers/ your community.
  - Graded as Pass/Fail

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will have

- A deeper understanding of the Land and Peoples Relationships Model and the teachings that ground this collaborative planning tool
- A deeper understanding of Canada's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (with a specific focus on No. 13: Climate Action, No. 14: Life on Land, and No. 15: Life Below Water)
- An ability to describe the complementary nature of the Land and Peoples Relationship Model and SDG's 13, 14, and 15
- Connected the teachings and application of the Land and Peoples Relationship Model to their own individual context, guided by discussion as well as the reflection assignments and the final project
- Space to consider how the Land and Peoples Relationship Model relates to a broader national and international context
- A certificate of completion (upon fulfillment of the criteria)
- An invitation to apply for the Summer 2026 land-based course in Kwanlin (Whitehorse, Yukon)



## B. Detailed Course Description

The Land and Peoples Relationship Model (LPRM) was conceived by Copper Joe Jack in 2018. He developed the model in response to his concerns about climate change and his commitment to using Traditional Knowledge to help drive meaningful solutions. It is described as a spiritual model that is also an extension of science, designed to bring two different knowledge systems — Indigenous and Western — together to work respectfully without merging or assimilating them.

This course was originally conceived of as a way to expose many people to the existence of, and high-level function of the LPRM. However, upon consulting with the Elder's circle, it became apparent that it was more important for a smaller number of people to become more intimately familiar with the model and its teachings. Thus, the idea of a course-based delivery emerged. Registration in the course will gain you access to 20 hours of virtual sessions led by Elder Copper Joe Jack, and to all the course content, including videos of Copper Jack's land-based teachings, all powerpoint slides, and other supplemental documents. There will be opportunities to dive deeper into the content with Elder Copper in the "off" weeks as well, if participants desire.

The Elders also impressed upon us the importance of people coming to their territory to get to know the Land, especially if they want to engage deeply with the model's teachings. This was the motivation to add the optional Land-based component of the course; those that might want to hire or work with the model in the future, or even those who want to get to know the model further on the Land it was born from, are welcome to apply. The applications for the land-based component of the course will open in the new year.

### **Learning Environment**

This document is a guide to course content and scheduling. Be aware that what we have planned is never set in stone and some changes can be expected, but we will never spring these on you unannounced.

Generally, each 2-hour session will feature an opening teaching or some form of cultural grounding exercise, a short 'core learning' presentation, and some combination of participant discussions, exercises and activities. We also hope to create opportunities to engage with the course materials through online discussion, if that is something participants are interested in.



Our course will be adhering to the Model's key laws of "respect, care, share", meaning that we aspire to foster a learning environment that is welcoming, safe, and interactive, where everyone feels comfortable to engage and participate. We recognize that each participant brings unique perspectives, beliefs, and life experiences to this class. All of us are expected to maintain respect for one another and adopt a caring and open-minded attitude. We recognize that students have different strengths, and diverse needs, and we will work with you to tackle any challenges that arise through this course.

## **Participation and Discussion Guidelines (or, "Rules of Engagement")**

Beyond expressing your own relevant thoughts and experiences, participation means listening to, responding to, and leaving room for others in the discussion. We will be adhering to the Model's "Rules of Engagement", to ensure all participants hear, and feel heard during discussion. These rules of engagement include:

1. Show respect for each other, and the Land;
2. Feel as much as you think (e.g. stating "I feel" rather than "I think" during discussion)
3. Listen to understand what is being said (with your heart, as well as your head);
4. Clarify what you say and hear, and
5. Have patience.

## **Code of Conduct**

Based on the above Rules of Engagement, participants will be expected to review, acknowledge and adhere to the Land and Peoples Relationship Model Code of Conduct (to be shared during registration).



## C. Class schedule

### ***JAN. 2026 – Foundations of the Land and Peoples Relationship Model + Project Seeding***

**Session 1:** Opening circle & housekeeping

**Session 2:** Land as relationship and the LPRM

### ***FEB. 2026 – Life Below Water, Life on Land, and the LPRM***

**Session 3:** SDG 14: Water as Relative, and Indigenous Water Laws

**Session 4:** SDG 15: Biodiversity & Land Stewardship

**Session 4.5 (Bonus):** LPRM alignment with SDG's 14 and 15

### ***MARCH 2026 – Relational Climate Leadership and Collaborative Governance***

**Session 5:** SDG 13: Indigenous impacts, responses, & relational climate leadership

**Session 6:** Collaborative governance & shared decision-making: simulated model round-table

### ***APRIL 2026 – Refining for Impact***

**Session 7:** Midpoint check-ins & feedback

**Session 8:** Indigenous evaluation models

### ***MAY 2026 – Accountability & Closing***

**Session 9:** Deep Respect & Sustaining Relationships

**Session 9.5 (Bonus):** Deepening discussion from session 9

**Session 10:** Final project presentations, sharing circle & closing



## D. Copyright

Unless otherwise designated, all course materials are the intellectual property of the Land and Peoples Relationship Model. This includes PowerPoint/PDF slides, videos and other course notes. Distributing or publishing any material provided to you as part of this course is PROHIBITED, unless you have written permission from the instructor who provided the material to you.

### **Use of Video and Recording of the Course**

Video conference sessions in this course, including your participation, will be recorded and made available only to participants for viewing via the course website after each session. This is done, in part, to ensure that students unable to join the session can view the session at a later time. This will also provide you with the opportunity to review any material discussed.

Please remember that course recordings belong to your instructor, and/or others (like a guest speaker) depending on the circumstance of each session are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share recordings without the explicit permission of Elder Copper Joe Jack.

For questions about recording and use of sessions in which you have participated, including any concerns related to your privacy, please contact Sydney at [info@respectcareshare.ca](mailto:info@respectcareshare.ca).